

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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COUNTRY East Germany

SUBJECT Possible Use of Blind Bombing Devices
in Soviet IL-28 Aircraft

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1. Evidence of a blind bombing system being in existence on the Soviet Il-28 jet bomber and of the possibility that it was being utilized prior to the withdrawal of the Il-28s from the Soviet Zone of Germany has been brought out.

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Il-28 type aircraft from the very first, when they were observed in East Germany during the spring of 1951, were already equipped with a large ventral turret on the underside of the fuselage. It was determined that this was neither a gun station nor an entrance hatch but that the blister was most probably a radome for the antenna of a ground observation radar set, combined possibly with a bomb aiming device. This was especially bore out by the similarity to the cowlings of the Meddo, Rotterdam and Berlin devices. As of the end of 1952, there had been no information which indicated that Il-28s were actually equipped with one of these type radar sets.

3. the Soviets had developed and were producing special tubes for blind bombing devices. since 1948, the production of the tube plant at Moscow-Fryazino has included 3-cm and 10-cm magnetrons and that since 1947 clystrons were being developed there. Television tubes and magnetrons below 3 cm were allegedly developed at another institute.

the Meddo set was being mass produced at Saratov and that the production of the pertinent 3 cm magnetron had been transferred from Fryazino to Saratov since 1948. The production of 3-cm magnetrons and clystrons for the Meddo set at Saratov, of magnetrons, clystrons and television tubes at Fryazino and of clystrons in the Svetlana Plant at Leningrad has been confirmed. the monthly output of magnetrons at Fryazino at 80 to 120 units. production of 3-cm magnetrons and modulation tubes at Fryazino.

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It is most definitely believed, by the arrangement of the units on a level plane and by the construction details which are clearly shown, that these objects are ground target reflectors used in conjunction with radar controlled approach and bomb aiming devices. The reflectors are cube-shaped and have three open sides which are covered with sheetmetal. The base plates of the reflectors, when viewed from above appear diamond shaped and all the units face in the same direction. The only difference that may be noted in the four reflectors [REDACTED] is in the angle of the base plate, which points alternately up or down. These types of reflectors, reflect radar rays in the direction of incidence, (similar to optical reflectors) and are also used by the Western Powers as target representations for airborne radar sets. The signal sent out by the radar device in the approaching aircraft, strikes the angles. These return the signal which in turn produces a light point on the screen of the Meddo or similar radar set, thereby indicating the course or target.

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- 25X1 5. The Annex is [REDACTED] training activities observed at the Gadow Rossow and Kummersdorf target ranges indicating that, since the spring of 1952, Il-28 bombers had practiced night bombing. The bombing activities at Gadow Rossow, on 9 April 1953, with a low cloud base and no ground visibility, are evidence of blind bombing practices. During August and December 1952, preliminary training for blind bombing, i.e. flashes while the aircraft were over the target, was also observed at the Kummersdorf target range. The extension of the restricted area and explosions of bombs far away from the target also indicated initial blind bombing training. Evidence of blind bombing practice was also obtained on 21 February 1953 and 1 April 1953, when bombs were dropped in heavy fog.
6. It is particularly noteworthy that, during the summer of 1953, night bombing by Il-10s was practiced but ground view was achieved by the use of searchlights marking the target area and with the aircraft flying with position lights set.
7. It is concluded, that Il-28 type bombers are most probably equipped with Meddo blind bombing devices and that the crews were being trained in the use of these sets in East Germany. This is based on the information of the production of tubes for the Meddo set at Fryazino and of the entire set in Saratov, from the identification of the radomes for the antenna of a blind bombing device on the Il-28 and from [REDACTED] these angular reflectors for radar air to ground observation sets at the Gadow Rossow and Kummersdorf bombing ranges, and by the actual blind bombing which was practiced by Il-28 type bombers at both of these locations.

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Observations Made at Gadow Hoesow and Ammersdorf Target Grounds25X1
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Date of Observation	Time of Observation	Observation
October 1951		No night bombing was observed prior to this date.
13 and 20 March 1952	8 p.m.	Jet bombers dropped clusters of signal lights, and gave air to air signal flashes.
5 April 1952		Jet aircraft flew overhead hidden by the clouds.
4 August 1952	at night	Jet bombers identified by their silhouettes dropped individual bombs with tracer column or explosive and pyrotechnical bombs.
27 August 1952	11:30 p.m.	Jet bombers were heard dropping three individual bombs.
4 September 1952	8 to 8:30 p.m.	Jet bombers dropped three pyrotechnical bombs.
September and December 1952		No bombing was practiced. Target range was returned to German authorities. A strong target construction unit arrived later.
3 March 1953	prior to 10 p.m.	Jet bombers were heard dropping individual bombs, including many with tracer columns.
8 March 1953	prior to 11 p.m.	
9 March 1953	at night	
12 March 1953	at night	
12 March 1953		Targets, dummies of guns and small iron angles were erected. Two trucks of the bomber regiment stationed at Werneuchen which is equipped with il-28s were observed.
13 March 1953	at night	Jet bombers were dropping bombs, including many with tracer columns.

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Date of Observation	Time of Observation	Observation
15 March 1953	at night	Jet bombers were dropping individual bombs, including many with tracer columns.
18 March 1953	at night	
1 April 1953	at night	
2 April 1953	at night	(the target was marked by burning oil drums)
3 April 1953	8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Jet bombers dropped individual bombs. There was a 8/10 overcast.
9 April 1953	noon to 4 p.m.	At low cloud base, without ground visibility, individual bombs were dropped by jet bombers.
10 April 1953	at night	Jet bombers dropped individual bombs.
8 to 11 April 1953	at night	Jet bombers were heard dropping individual bombs.
27 June to 25 August 1953	at night	F-100s practiced night bombing with ground view. The restricted area was marked by searchlights.
7 August 1952	11:30 p.m. to 0:45 a.m.	Jet bombers dropped individual bombs.
8 August 1952	9:30 p.m. to 0:45 a.m.	Jet bombers dropped two bombs each. There was a 7/10 overcast.
29 and 30 August 1952	at night	Flash lights were observed while jet bombers flew over the target range.
3 and 4 December 1952	at night	Flash lights were observed while jet bombers flew over the target range.
10 December 1952	at night	Jet bombers dropped individual bombs. The restricted area was extended. Bombs exploded close to Sperenberg.
21 February 1953	9 to 10 a.m.	Jet bombers dropped individual bombs in hazy weather and bad visibility.

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Date of Observation	Time of Observation	Observation
16 March 1953	at night	Jet bombers dropped individual bombs with tracer columns.
1 April 1953	9:30 a.m.	A formation of jet bombers flew over the target area, each time dropping six bombs. There was heavy fog and the aircraft were not seen.
19 April to 12 June 1953	at night	Jet bombers dropped bombs with tracer columns.
18 to 27 September 1953	at night	11-10s with position lights set, dropped bombs into an area marked by searchlights.

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